

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, May 14, 1902, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Beinn Bhreagh, C. B. May 14, 1902 Dear Mabel:

I send you some notes in lieu of letter. Mr. Zable has just succeeded in finding letter paper and envelopes. Things in CHAOTIC condition here — and not a soul to help. Had Zable come up and put room in order and search house for supplies.

Your loving husband, Alec. Mrs. A. G. Bell, 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C.

Mr. McInnis has put up notices at Post-office in Baddeck and other places — and an advertisement in N. Sydney Herald — to following effect:

### **FARMERS EXAMINE YOUR SHEEP .**

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS offered for a ewe yielding milk from eight nipples:

TEN DOLLARS for a ewe yielding milk from six nipples:

FOUR DOLLARS for a ewe yielding milk from four nipples.

I am prepared to pay the above prices C.O.D. for ewes delivered at Beinn Bhreagh on or before the first day of June, 1902.

(signed) Angus McInnis. Manager.

Beinn Bhreagh near Baddeck, May 12, 1902.

## Library of Congress

Since coming here have put myself on quite a low diet with object of reducing my weight — and have also exercised a great deal in open air. Walked to and from laboratory every day — made several visits to House-boat — tramped through woods and etc. In fact — have walked myself stiff and sore — with following results as regards weight.

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AGB's weight (without clothes)

1902 May 7 weighed 252½ pounds. May 8 “ 249½ “ May 9 “ 251 “ May 10 “ 252½ “ May 11 “ 251¼ “ May 12 “ 250½ “ May 13 “ 253 “ May 14 “ 252½ “

Net Result: Just where I was when I started! This is aggravating and disheartening — especially as experimentation has been honest . Will continue another week without change as there are signs of falling and I think I see a reason for the rise of weight accompanying a reduction of food supply — at least at beginning of changed nutrition.

To speak symbolically — Weight is the balance between income and expenditure. If you reduce your income and also reduce your expenditure in like proportion — your net weight will be unchanged. But I rather suspect that nature acts like a panicky bank. When income is suddenly reduced she suspends specie payment and locks her cofers in her vaults — where they accumulate until full: Then she opens her doors again and resumes specie payment on a reduced scale. If you understand my simile — you will send me a crushed fly (!) for emergencies.

Must try to keep some record of telegrams sent and received.

Received:

Washington, May 11, 1902. To Graham Bell, Baddeck C. B.

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Russell of Ann Harbor, suggests Geographic Society send expedition Martinique. Do you approve and if so how much will you subscribe. Society might send Russell and Robert T. Hill cost five hundred for each person.

(signed) Gilbert H. Grosvenor.

Sent:

Baddeck, May 12, 1902. To Gilbert H. Grosvenor, 1314 19th Street, Washington, D. C.

Go yourself to Martinique in interests of Magazine and I will pay your expenses. If Society can subscribe for others well and good but go yourself without delay. This is the opportunity of a life-time — seize it. Start within twenty-four hours and let the world hear from you as our representative. Leave Science to Russell and others and give us details of living interest beautifully illustrated by photographs.

(signed) Graham Bell.

Sent:

Baddeck, May 12, 1902. To Mrs. Graham Bell, 1331 Conn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

Send newspapers — only Halifax papers here. Hope Bert has some go in him see telegram.

(signed) Alec.

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Received:

Washington, May 12, 1902. To Graham Bell, Baddeck, C. B.

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Bert unwell, under orders to leave before hot weather. Even if physically able should strongly doubt possibility any but expert Scientists accomplishing more than the reports already rushed them by special and unlimited money. Bert anxious send three scientists will manage everything, won't you subscribe.

(signed) Mabel.

Received:

Washington, May 12, 1902. To Graham Bell, Baddeck, C. B.

Sowers absolutely refuses to let me go Martinique — very sorry but appreciate your suggestion.

(signed) Gilbert H. Grosvenor.

Sent:

Baddeck, May 13, 1902. To Mrs. Graham Bell, 1331 Conn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

Sorry about Bert subscribe for me what you think best.

(signed) Alec.

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(To be sent tomorrow morning) Baddeck, May 15, 1902. To Mrs. Graham Bell, 1331 Conn. Ave., Washington, D. C.

If Bert unable to attend to newspapers ask McGee to appoint Committee to supply public with authoritative information in name of National Geographic Society concerning West Indian disturbances and volcanic eruptions in general. Also notify newspapers that we contemplate sending expedition and invite financial aid. Have seen no mention of

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Geographic in connection with disaster. This is a unique opportunity for making Society known.

(signed) Alec. AGB.